Pre-Visit Preparations:

Name Tags - Who Am I?

Objective: Students will explore the concept of ecosystem and how there are patterns within the

ecosystems. The students will discover that some of these patterns are predictable and by understanding the order of nature we can better understand the way the ecosystems work. They will learn about members of the Wind Cave National Park

ecosystems.

Procedure: Students will make a nametag. They should select a Wind Cave National Park

ecosystem member from the list below to illustrate their nametag. In addition to making the nametag, the students should learn something about the plant, animal, or

element they have selected.

Suggested Name Tag List:

Bison Fire

Mule Deer Prairie Dog Badger Coyote

Water Cave Boxwork
Ponderosa Pine Pasqueflower
Elk Cottontail Rabbit

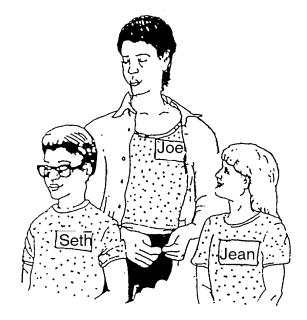
Moth Bluebird
Butterfly Eagle
Meadowlark Cave
Woodpecker Lichen

Buffalo Grass Prairie Rattlesnake
Bumble Bee Grasshoppers
Little Blue Stem Grass Bull Snake

Blue Grama Grass Great Horned Owl

Limestone Bat Juniper Tree Soil

Wind Cave Visitor Black-footed Ferret Chokecherry Decayed Plants



Students should arrive knowing that there are three main ecosystems at Wind Cave National Park: the prairie, the forest, and the cave. Have the students imagine that they are their ecosystem member and ask them why they are found at Wind Cave National Park. Point out connections between the ecosystem members to illustrate a pattern common in nature. For example, a fly is eaten by a grasshopper, which is eaten by a meadowlark, which is eaten by a snake, which is eaten by an eagle.